

Class A Driver Training School Curriculum Requirements

Driver training instructional courses offered for the purpose of operating commercial motor vehicles as defined by Virginia Code § 46.2-341.4, including passenger and/or property carrying vehicles, will consist of both classroom and in-vehicle training. The Class A driver training school shall develop and submit to DMV for approval copies of the following:

- ▶ The paper copy of the course, including a description of the course curriculum and a table of contents or index indicating where all required components specified are located
- ▶ An instructor training manual
- ▶ The instructor's student training manual
- ▶ The student workbook/manual
- ▶ A student contract
- ▶ School policies and procedures
- ▶ Lesson plans
- ▶ All teaching aids, including, if applicable, films, videos, slides and discussion cards.

The course materials must be free of racial, ethnic and gender stereotypes, and must clearly define the purpose, goals, and objectives of the program. The purpose should be concisely stated with specific components.

DMV may request copies of the curriculum, including training materials, at any time. Once a curriculum is approved, subsequent changes to that curriculum must be submitted to DMV for approval.

It is the responsibility of the school to make accommodations that conform to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The DMV approved training course will consist of a minimum of 120 hours of instruction (a minimum of 40 hours of classroom instruction, and a minimum of 80 hours of in-vehicle instruction consisting of hands-on, observation, range and road instruction and simulation). Both classroom and in-vehicle training sessions will be limited to a maximum of ten hours per day.

Classroom Instruction Requirements

The classroom instruction shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

- ▶ State motor vehicle laws, including those specifically relating to:
 - ▶ Registration, proof of insurance and licensing laws
 - ▶ Special taxes
- ▶ Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration rules and regulations relating to:
 - ▶ Medical reviews
 - ▶ Operation of commercial motor vehicles, such as trucks
 - ▶ Commercial tractor, trailers, and semi-trailers, and motor vehicles
 - ▶ Transporting flammable or hazardous cargo
 - ▶ Passenger carrying vehicles
- ▶ Virginia laws relating to equipment, brake systems, lighting, and display of emergency equipment
- ▶ Additional subjects including:
 - ▶ Responding to different types of drivers (e.g., teen drivers, mature drivers, etc.)
 - ▶ Accident reporting and safety responsibility laws
 - ▶ Safe driving strategies/principles
- ▶ Awareness of unsafe, unacceptable driving practices to avoid, including:
 - ▶ Aggressive driving
 - ▶ Distracted driving
 - ▶ Alcohol/drug awareness
 - ▶ Motorcycle safety awareness
 - ▶ Truck safety
- ▶ Railroad crossings requirements
- ▶ Driving conditions
- ▶ Emergencies on the road
- ▶ City and suburban driving, rural and expressway driving
- ▶ Routine service and pre-trip safety check
- ▶ Log book lessons and map reading
- ▶ Use of occupant safety devices and their benefits and effectiveness in motor vehicle collisions, including:
 - ▶ Flares, triangles or reflectors
 - ▶ Fire extinguishers
 - ▶ Safety belts
 - ▶ Hazmat emergency handbooks

Not more than 30 percent of the total classroom hours may be devoted to the showing of slides or films.

In-vehicle Instruction Requirements

The in-vehicle instruction shall include, but need not to be limited to, the following:

- ▶ Starting
- ▶ Stopping
- ▶ Turning
- ▶ Braking
- ▶ Parking
- ▶ Docking
- ▶ Hooking-up and unhooking trailers and semi-trailers
- ▶ Display of emergency equipment
- ▶ Use of hazard lighting system
- ▶ Pre-trip inspections shall include routine checking and servicing of all component parts of such vehicles

For in-vehicle instruction, the number of occupants, including the driver and instructor, will be limited to no more than five persons in the cab during periods of instruction as prescribed by regulation.

Passenger-carrying Instruction Requirements

Passenger carrying vehicle courses must include the same instruction requirements as set forth above, and shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- ▶ Occupant protection and accommodation, including:
 - ▶ Passenger loading and unloading practices
 - ▶ Emergency situation procedures, including emergency passenger evacuation and exit procedures
 - ▶ Seating limitations
 - ▶ Requirements regarding provisions to accommodate passengers under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- ▶ Baggage loading and unloading, and weight distribution



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